

their native land during the murderous reign of Khmer Rouge. Cambodia, according to the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking is one of the leading sources and destinations of trafficking in persons. Many of these victims are the friends and relatives of my constituents. They want very much to see their loved ones protected, and so do I.

I have strongly advocated each year for enhanced funding to combat human trafficking, and I have spoken on the subject to the European Union Inter-Parliamentary Assembly as a part of the House Helsinki Commission. In the 111th Congress, I also introduced House Resolution 929, which recognizes December 2 as "International Day for the Abolition of Slavery." This resolution encourages member states of the United Nations to intensify their efforts to eradicate modern-day slavery, and it urges Americans to help raise awareness of the prevalence of this human rights abuse. I introduced a similar resolution in the 112th Congress supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

I am proud to report that House Resolution 929 was endorsed by the Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, Safe Horizon, Freedom Network, Humanity United, Coalition to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery in Asia, Boat People SOS, and the Polaris Project blog. These modern day abolitionists are the true heroes, fighting on the frontlines to protect trafficking victims and serving as models of the compassion and leadership we should all strive to display every day.

Mr. Speaker, this month marked the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation that all slaves residing in the states in rebellion against the Union would forever be free. President Lincoln's bold move changed our nation for the better and is a defining moment in American history when we fully committed ourselves to protecting the liberty of every man, woman, and child.

We must remain aware that the struggle continues and even hides within the borders of the United States. Human trafficking remains one of the gravest injustices of our time as it continues to rob millions of people of basic self-determination and dignity. Yet our government is making significant progress. I firmly believe that, through American leadership and global cooperation, we can bring the goal of eradication within reach.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton for their steadfast support for anti-human trafficking initiatives, and I reaffirm my own dedication to combating all forms of modern slavery and upholding the American promise of freedom.

HONORING MARTIN BRELAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martin Breland on his recent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Mr. Breland has been president and CEO of Tower Federal Credit Union in Laurel, Maryland, since 1994. Under his leadership, Tower has experienced significant and healthy asset growth. With over 16 branches spanning four counties, Tower is the largest federal credit union in the state of Maryland and provides a range of financial products to meet the needs of their 124,000 member-owners, a number of whom live in my district. Prior to becoming CEO in 1994, Mr. Breland served in other capacities at Tower including Vice President of Finance and Vice President of Member Services.

With over 30 years of experience in the financial industry and an M.B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Mr. Breland is a welcomed addition to the NAFCU board. In his new role he will have the opportunity to play an important role in public policy formation.

I wish Mr. Breland the best of luck in his new role on the NAFCU Board and look forward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Mr. Breland on this achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO TREVOR SCHAFER, 2012 SACRED HEART PREPARATORY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trevor Schaffer, a 1998 graduate of St. Joseph's School and a 1992 graduate of Sacred Heart Preparatory. The School is proud to offer the Athletic Hall of Fame to honor him for his athletic achievements. The award recognizes contributions of alumni athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators of Sacred Heart Preparatory. Individuals like Trevor Schaffer who are inducted into the Hall of Fame have made significant achievements in his sports of soccer, baseball and basketball and exemplified the principals of sportsmanship and Christianity as illustrated in the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Trevor Schaffer, an athlete who lives a life which embodies the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. He lives the five commitments of faith, respect, social awareness, community building and personal growth, and his contributions to his sport have strengthened our community and our country immeasurably.

HONORING JOAN WHEELER

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Mrs. Joan Schlaudt Wheeler, one of my constituents and a matriarch of the Cherokee County, South Carolina Republican Party.

Mrs. Wheeler was born in Cleburn, Texas, in 1927 to Edo Schlaudt and Marjorie Nail

Schlaudt. Mrs. Wheeler was a very intelligent woman who valued education as one of the most reliable assets a person can possess. She graduated from Montreal and Converse Colleges, and worked as a teacher in York County, South Carolina. She particularly loved history and government, so her life-long dedication to public service came as no surprise.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Wheeler was active in community concerns and local politics, fighting for her convictions even if at times they were unpopular. She fought to stop the damming of Broad River, led a group to stop wasteful school spending and halt a public school building program, and worked to stop a landfill in the McKowns Mountain community. Most notably, she was an alternate delegate to the Republican Convention in 2000, and served as the chair of the local Republican Party for seven years. During her chairmanship, the party increased both its membership and visibility, and started a scholarship program for Gaffney and Blacksburg High School seniors. Mrs. Wheeler always had the best interests of her community at heart.

Mrs. Wheeler was often recognized for her public service. She received the Woman of the Year award for the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women. She was the first recipient of the Palmetto Elephant award for the S.C.G.O.P. In 2010, Governor Mark Sanford presented Mrs. Wheeler with The Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in my State, recognizing a person's lifetime achievements and contributions to South Carolina.

Mrs. Wheeler was also a woman dedicated to her family. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, George Wheeler, and four children—David, Tom, Mary Lois and Jan.

We will remember Mrs. Wheeler not only for her convictions and her work to improve the lives of others, but more importantly, as a dear friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Joan's family and for all those who knew her and share in her loss.

LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 75th anniversary of Lamar Community College.

Located in Prowers County, Colorado, Lamar Community College has grown to over 1,000 students, and fosters an environment that supports students and the surrounding community. The value of having an institution of higher education committed to enriching the lives of its students has proven to be invaluable for Southeastern Colorado.

Through a variety of partnerships, the college is able to offer students the opportunity to obtain admission and degrees from four-year universities. Properly representing the Eastern Plains of Colorado, Lamar Community College has become known for its successful agriculture and equestrian programs.

The college hosts five National Junior College Athletic Association sports as well as a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association team, and these programs have risen to prominence in the region. Lamar Community College's core values of Respect, Integrity, Open

Communication, and Valuing People have allowed this institution to flourish over its history.

It is with great pride that I honor the 75th Anniversary of Lamar Community College.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION
ENHANCEMENT ACT (S. 743)

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, S. 743, and, as a long-time sponsor and cosponsor of similar legislation this session and in past sessions, hope to clarify the intent of the application of the bill's provisions in two important ways.

By way of background, I first introduced a version of this legislation in 2003, H.R. 3281, to respond to a series of decisions by the Merit Systems Protection Board, MSPB, and the Federal Circuit Court. Those decisions undermined Congressional intent with respect to the original Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989.

Specifically, Congress intended that "any" protected disclosure of waste, fraud, and abuse by a federal employee be covered by the law. As interpreted by the MSPB and the Federal Circuit Court, however, loopholes began to develop. Congress strengthened the law in 1994, but decisions by the MSPB and Federal Circuit Court continued to undermine the intent of Congress.

A mark-up of my original legislation was held in 2004. A mark-up of a re-introduced version of the bill, H.R. 1317, was held in 2006. A version introduced by Representative HENRY WAXMAN and myself, H.R. 985, was passed by the House in 2007. At the core, all of these bills—and their Senate versions—restored the Congressional intent of the original Whistleblower Protection Act by plugging the loopholes that had developed.

The bill before us today makes the same attempt at restoring Congressional intent, but—if interpreted incorrectly—I fear the possibility of two more loopholes opening up.

First, agencies must not be allowed to circumvent whistleblower protections through so-called "secrecy" regulations, such as a new category of information (labeled "Sensitive Security Information") created by the Department of Homeland Security. Whistleblower law understandably already exempts from whistleblower protections information which is classified or "specifically prohibited by law" from release. Classified information is information that is kept secret by Executive Order, not a hybrid category of information created by agency regulation like "Sensitive Security Information." Moreover, "prohibited by law" has long been understood to mean statutory law and court interpretations of those statutes, not to agency rules and regulations.

If the Federal Circuit Court broadens the "prohibited by law" exemption to include anything that an agency tries to keep secret under any of their regulations, a new loophole could be opened up that would substantially undermine Congressional intent in passing this bill. It is therefore important to once again make it clear: "Prohibited by law" has long been understood to mean statutory law and court in-

terpretations of those statutes, not to agency rules and regulations. Any exceptions to these rights must be created by Congress, and Congress must act with specificity. That has been the law since 1978, and it continues to be the law.

Second, it must be understood that those whistleblowers who have been waiting for this bill to be enacted are protected by its provisions. As stated by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in its report accompanying this bill, S. Rpt. 112–155:

The Committee expects and intends that the Act's provisions shall be applied in OSC [Office of Special Counsel], MSPB, and judicial proceedings initiated by or on behalf of a whistleblower and pending on or after that effective date [30 days after the date of enactment of the bill]. Such application is expected and appropriate because the legislation generally corrects erroneous decisions by the MSPB and the courts; removes and compensates for burdens that were wrongfully imposed on individual whistleblowers exercising their rights in the public interest; and improves the rules of administrative and judicial procedure and jurisdiction applicable to the vindication of whistleblowers' rights.

Some in the whistleblower community have been waiting for more than a decade to see Congressional intent with respect to whistleblower law restored. The number who could actually take advantage of the protections in this bill is probably not large, but their cases are significant and justice requires protections for them.

In concluding, I would like to thank the many, many individuals and organizations that have championed this important "good government" issue over the years. There are more than I could possibly mention, but allow me to name just a few: Senator DANIEL AKAKA, who has pushed this issue for years in the Senate; former Representative Connie Morella, who introduced the first House version of the bill before her retirement; former Representatives Tom Davis and current Representative HENRY WAXMAN, who pushed the issue during their service on the Government Reform Committee; my colleagues DARRELL ISSA, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and their staffs; and, finally, the Government Accountability Project (GAP), Project on Government Oversight (POGO), and National Taxpayers Union (NTU). Without all of their efforts, we would not be in a position to finally secure enactment of this important legislation that ensures whistleblowers with the courage to report waste, fraud, and abuse are applauded—not punished.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREDRICK R.
"FRED" MEYER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fredrick R. "Fred" Meyer. Mr. Meyer was a successful businessman, the Texas GOP chairman for six years, and the chairman of the Republican Party in Dallas for 7 years. Last week he passed away at the age of 84. Mr. Meyer will always be remem-

bered as the man who made the Texas GOP unstoppable.

Mr. Meyer graduated in 1949 from Purdue University with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and received a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University in 1958, graduating from both with high distinction.

While working as senior vice president of the information services company, Tyler Corporation, in Dallas, Mr. Meyer was asked by Republican congressional candidate Alan Steelman to manage his campaign. After surprisingly winning the race against the former mayor of Dallas, Earle Cabell, Mr. Meyer couldn't help but become more involved. Beginning in 1972, he became a state delegate at that and every subsequent Republican convention.

Even though Texas was primarily a Democratic state, Mr. Meyer used his skills in fundraising and managing to convince potential candidates to run for Republican seats. About 10 percent of Dallas County elected officials were Republicans when he was elected as Dallas GOP Chairman in 1979, but towards the end of his last term, almost 80 percent of the county elected officials were Republican.

When he lost the race for Dallas mayor to Annette Strauss in 1987, he served three terms as the state GOP chairman, aiding Texan George H.W. Bush in winning the presidency.

His success for the party lasted for two full decades until the Democrats took Dallas County in 2006. His admirable reputation will not be forgotten. During the last few weeks of his life, Mr. Meyer was fundraising in his hospital room for the Cooper Institute. It seemed that he could never give up his passion.

Mr. Meyer is survived by his wife, Barbara Meyer, his son Brad Meyer, his two daughters, Amy and Cheryl, and his five grandchildren. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to Fred Meyer's family and friends.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR JOE WISE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional young man for his outstanding performance at the 2012 London Paralympics. Joe Wise is a tenacious athlete, a brilliant student and a dedicated son. Despite being diagnosed at age nine with mitochondrial myopathy—a severe muscular disorder affecting his legs, hips, core muscles and lungs, and was told by his doctors that he may not reach his fifteenth birthday—Joe Wise has never given up on his dreams of living an extraordinary life. Joe is an enthusiastic and energetic nineteen year old from Menlo Park, California, who with a passion for swimming was selected to represent the U.S. Paralympics swim team at the 2012 London Paralympics.

Joe's dedication to swimming began the same year he was diagnosed, and although he suffered from allergies and asthma, his mother insisted he swim to improve his health. It wasn't until a fellow swimming mate, Kelly Crowley, introduced him to the Paralympic Games that Joe began to aspire to compete.